

**Montgomery College**



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**Montgomery College: Helping to Build  
the Next Great Generation**

**Presentation to the County Council**

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# We Are Montgomery

- 50,000+ students in fall 2011\*
- No majority race at MC since 1997
- 68% of students are “minorities”

**These students are our future!**

# The Big Picture: We're at a Crossroads...

- Nation has been here: Post-depression, WWII era
- Harry S. Truman Commission on Higher Education
  - The report from the Truman Commission stressed that if education is not available to everyone it may in fact exacerbate, not ameliorate, race and class distinctions.  
*"It is obvious that free and universal access to education ... must be a major goal in American education."*
- Result: birth of community colleges and the greatest generation
- Higher ed enrollments doubled from 1945 to 1960

# An Urgent Need for Post-Secondary Education

- Need both universal access and success
- President Obama's State of the Union:
  - "Think about the America within our reach: A country that leads the world in educating its people."
  - Growing industries in science and technology have twice as many openings as we have workers who can do the job.... openings at a time when millions of Americans are looking for work.
  - A national commitment to train 2 million Americans with skills that will lead directly to a job.
- **Community colleges are essential to building the "next great generation"**

## Our Country Faces a Major Challenge

- Young people are falling behind:
  - U.S. now ranks 15<sup>th</sup> in the world in 25-34 year olds with a degree
  - One of the few nations in the world in which younger adults are **not** better educated than older adults
- 60% of U.S. jobs will require some higher education by 2018
- Only 38% of Americans hold a two or four year degree
  - 26.2% of Black Americans
  - 18.6% of Hispanics

## Maryland Also Has Challenges

- Maryland ranks 25<sup>th</sup> among states in the percentage of high school graduates going directly to college
- Maryland ranks 46<sup>th</sup> among states in the number of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) credentials awarded relative to the number of STEM employees
- Maryland goal: By 2025, become the first state in the country with 55% of its population achieving a degree beyond high school

# Community Colleges Are Essential

- Our country, our state, and our county need community colleges.
- We enroll the future workforce.
- Just look at Montgomery College.

## **MC's Fall 2011 Credit Enrollment (Degree/Transfer/Career Programs)**

- Now the largest undergraduate enrollment in MD
  - Surpassed University of Maryland College Park
  - Nearly 27,000 students
  - Have added over 3,000 students since 2007
    - Similar to adding the entire Blair H.S.
  - Two-thirds are 24 or younger
- Broadly diverse
  - White (32%), Black (30%), Asian (15%), Hispanic (13%), Multi-racial (10%)
  - Over 8,000 students represent 170 countries of origin



## Workforce Development and Cont. Education (Training, Industry Certification and Enrichment)

- Fall 2011: Close to 24,000 students
  - Average age is 37
  - 25% are age 50+
  - 81% of students take 1-2 courses per semester
- Broad array of programs
  - ESL/GED
  - Professional licensure, apprenticeships and certifications
    - Green training, automotive technician, real estate
  - Lifelong Learning Institute

# Risk Factors to College Completion

Students who face one or more risk factors are less likely to get a degree

# Risk Factors to College Completion

- Attending Part-time (school competes with work and family obligations)
  - 64% of our students are part-time
- First Generation College Goers (less prepared/able to navigate the system)
  - At least 1/3 are first generation at MC
- Financial Challenges
  - Financial aid applications up 80% in last five years

# Financial Challenges for MC Students

- Last year, 8,400 students qualified for Pell Grants
  - Average family income < \$23,000
  - One in seven had incomes under \$1,000
- 4,000 students did **not enroll** this fall after qualifying for but failing to receive any college grants. Equivalent of turning away all the students from Richard Montgomery and Gaithersburg High Schools.

# Challenges.. And Opportunities

- A strong county needs a strong pre-school to community college (P-14) presence! Why?
- Stephen Fuller (GMU) predicts job growth:
  - Replacement and new jobs
  - Growing number of residents approaching retirement
  - Home-grown educated workforce to replace them
- Occupational forecast underway:
  - Fuller, Industry, County, USG and MC
  - What education/training is needed for growth areas

## Two Scenarios: Worst Case or Ideal

- **Worst Case Scenario**

- Too few people complete post-secondary education or training
- Residents are ill-prepared for good jobs that pay a living wage... jobs could leave area if they go unfilled
- Risk the future – the “magic” of Montgomery Ct.

- **Ideal Scenario**

- Quality P-14 for every resident
- Good jobs are filled by highly qualified residents
- Protects and expands an engaged middle class

## **MC's Role in the Ideal Scenario: High Skills Jobs**

Facing wave of baby boomer retirements, as well as under-production of STEM graduates.

Nearly half of all science, engineering and health students who go on to receive bachelors or master's degrees attended a community college (NSF data).

In an increasingly diverse region, it is imperative that we direct more under-represented populations (minorities and women) to STEM fields like engineering and bioscience.

## MC STEM Students

- Over 1,250 in MC's Engineering program
  - Transfer agreements with numerous institutions
- Majority of MC Biotech students already have a BS or MS degree
- Partners like *Human Genome Sciences*
  - Curriculum development
  - Hires students
  - Equipment and scholarship donations
  - Adjunct faculty



## Three MC Students Attend an NSF Conference on the Role of Community Colleges in STEM Education



Dean Eun-Woo Chang (MC), MC students James Hazelrig, Nancy Fonkoua Bogne, and Juan Martinez Yanes, and George Boggs, former president of the American Association of Community Colleges

# **MC's Role in the Ideal Scenario: Middle Skills Jobs**

44% of Maryland's jobs are middle skills, but only 38% of workers have training/education

- Nurses, lab bench workers, automotive technicians
- 60% of MD's new nursing graduates are from community colleges

## **Example of an MC Training program**

- 35% turnover in apartment maintenance jobs
- Developed with National Apartment Association
  - MC students take 100 hours of coursework
  - Work a year in field; pass final test
  - Certified as a maintenance technician

# What's Next?

Every resident must have access to and obtain high quality education and training, beginning with quality school programs and continuing with strong post-secondary offerings.

## Access...Getting Students Here

- Compel college attendance for all
- Keep tuition and costs affordable
- Support Dream Act
- Support for financial aid and scholarships
- Expand STEM options
- Enhance pathways to career and technical education (example: MI-BEST)
- Address space deficits/capacity

# Success: Finish What You Start!

## (Inside and Outside the Classroom)

- Redesigned developmental math
  - Emporium model
  - Self-paced; professors interact online and in math labs
  - Supports accelerated learning too
- Invest in full-time faculty
- Be intrusive with our students
- GPS: Guidance Path System that can't be disabled!
- One-stop locations for student services
  - Have at TP/SS
  - In this year's CIP for Rockville Campus

# What's Next? Partnerships

## Pathways to the Baccalaureate

- MCPS + MC + USG = Access and Success
- Fairfax County model
- Facilitates transition, retention, graduation and transfer
- Ongoing counseling, programming and support services
  - Uses one-stop, case management approach

## Enhance Transfer Opportunities

- Ease transfer to USM institutions
- Bring engineering to USG

# Post-Secondary Education is the Key

Let's build the next great generation

Frederick Douglas:

**“It is easier to build strong children than to repair broken men.”**

Education, from pre-school to college, is the great equalizer... and the key to Montgomery's magic

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Thank you!